

# River Mead School Parent Newsletter

## 07.10.2022



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*Our school latest news: <http://www.rivermead.wilts.sch.uk/news-dates/latest-news>*

*Our Twitter feed: [@TweetRiverMead](https://twitter.com/TweetRiverMead)*

*Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/River-Mead-School-728064724207622/>*

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### In this Newsletter

- **Message from Mrs Austin**
- **Reception & Year 1 Phonics events**
- **Attendance - winners**
- **Reporting Sickness**
- **Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND) Newsletter**
- **STAR of the Week**
- **Hot Chocolate with Senior Leadership Team**
- **Kingfisher Reading Challenge**
- **On-Line Safety Advice**
- **Reception & Year 1 Phonics**
- **Celebrating Participation**
- **Friends of River Mead**
- **School Term & Holiday Dates**
- **Family & Community Learning Survey**
- **PE times**
- **Date's to Remember**
- **What's On**

## A message from Mrs Austin

### Reading Again!

Well done I have seen lots of extra reading recorded and children who are almost there and some who are eligible for a weekly reading reward and a few who have chosen a book too! "Keep Reading"!

Remember that phonics, learning the sounds, letters and groups of letters make to form words are the building blocks of learning to read. This is crucial in the first years in school, so please see the links below to sign-up for a parent session where the team can share the 'how we teach it' and some ideas for how you can help at home. It is so exciting to be able to welcome parent back into school for these so please sign up (I'm sure we can find some biscuits and put the kettle on)!

### Remembrance

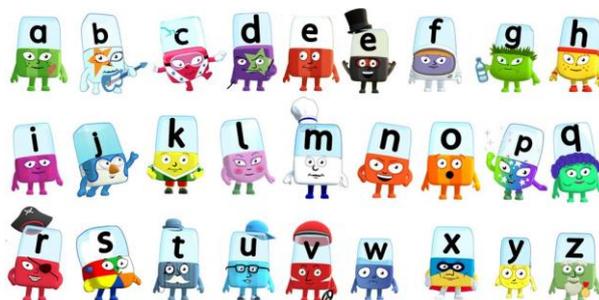
Do you have a military connection or have a family member who is? would you or they be willing to come and speak to children and answer some questions about their/your role and experiences it could be in any number of ways....

- coming into an assembly and sharing with the school
- creating a presentation that can be shared and delivered to individual classes
- recording a video sharing experiences

If you think you can help, please can you get in touch, it would be amazing to have representations from all the services (although we are a little bit far from the sea!)

Thank you for your continued support and in particular for getting to school on-time. Please don't forget the gates open at 8.30am and free breakfast is available; the gates shut at 8.45am, after this time you will need to go in through the school office. Learning starts promptly, so please be on time!!

## Reception & Year 1 Phonics



If you would like to join us for our Reception and Year 1 Phonics meeting please click on the relevant link below:

Reception (Otters) - <https://forms.office.com/r/b8NmQZapUw>

Year 1 (Dormice) - <https://forms.office.com/r/Cgtf4csRQH>

Thank you

## Attendance



### Attendance

*If you are requesting an exceptional school absence your request **MUST** be in 2 weeks prior to the date you are requesting. Term time holidays will be refused.*

- **CONGRATULATIONS to Kestrels 95.2% for this week! (THIRD week winners) Challenge is set, come on everyone who will beat Kestrels????**

*The government and local authority have been very clear that term time holidays are **NOT** permitted and if you choose to go on an unapproved holiday this will be an unauthorised absence and you may be fined.*

*Fines will be issued where a child has had 10 sessions unauthorised absence within a 6-month period (this includes unauthorised holidays).*

Authorised absence may be granted for exceptional circumstances such as a wedding or funeral, but you may be required to present evidence of these.

You are required to let us know if your child will not be in school & you should still bring your child in even if they are going to be late!

## Reporting Sickness

Just a reminder to always let the office know if your child is sick and cannot attend school. You can do this by calling 01225 703428 and choosing option 1 to report your child absence.

Although we appreciate children are unwell from time to time, children can still attend school when they have a cold or have not been sick if well enough to do so. We have enough tissues and TLC to go around, rest assured if we feel they are unable to take part in their class we will call you to collect them.

If your child has been sick or had an upset tummy, they are unable to return until 48 hours after their last episode.

## Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND) Newsletter



Wiltshire have launched a newsletter focussed on Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND). This newsletter will provide you with all the latest news and information on SEND matters in Wiltshire. The first edition can be found on [The Local Offer website here](#) and you can also sign up to have the newsletter directly emailed to you. We'd also like to hear your feedback on the SEND newsletter so please let us know what you think by emailing [localoffer@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:localoffer@wiltshire.gov.uk).

## STAR of the Week



**Dormice - Effie Antoni-Turner**

**Frogs - Eddie Plumb**

**Hérons - Mia Townsend - Morgan**

**Kestrels - Leo Plumb**

**Badger - Robyn O'Harrow**

**Buzzards - Ashleigh Townsend**

**Bumble Bees - Eli Patterson**

## Hot Chocolate with The Senior Leadership Team



**Well Done to those children who have gone 'above and beyond' this week with their attitude and behaviour, this week the Leadership Team will be welcoming the children for their hot chocolate**

**These children are:**

**Dormice - Reneya Wyatt**

**Frogs - Arabella Antoni-Turner**

**Hérons - Adam Shazhad**

**Kestrels - Kiera Vincent**

**Badger - Charlie Smith**

**Buzzards - Annalise Brookbanks**

**Bumble Bees - Marc Taylor**

## Kingfisher Reading Challenge



**A big well done to those children who have completed the following reads:**

### **Year 1**

5 reads - Effie Antoni-Turner, Zachary Perrin, Tommy Sievewright

### **Year 4**

25 reads - Lillie-Marie Allum, Rubie Cleverley, Imogen Webster, Jasmine Kaur, Sherkarnah Ward, Tyler Miller

## On-Line Safety Advice

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about BEREAL**

Bereal is the latest trending social media app. The concept is that people see others in their authentic day-to-day lives, sharing candid photos without editing or applying filters. Each day at a random time, users are simultaneously notified to take a photo of what they're doing at that exact moment. The two-minute window to submit an image means there's no time to select a particularly glamorous or exciting activity. BeReal shares two pictures: a selfie, and an image of the immediate surroundings. Users can only view and react to their friends' photos once they upload their own.

**13+**  
Age Rating  
18+ Parental Supervision Recommended

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

**CONTINUOUS NOTIFICATIONS**  
Like any social media app, BeReal's constant notifications can be an annoyance and a distraction. There are also other risks for parents: such as excessive screen time. This can make using BeReal for educational purposes more difficult, distracting them from other activities.

**EASY LOCATION**  
BeReal's automatic ability to share the exact location where a photo was taken means that parents may not be aware of where their child is when they post. It's important to know exactly where your child is when they post. It's also important to know where your child is when they post. It's also important to know where your child is when they post.

**CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS**  
When someone signs up to BeReal, it highlights accounts in their primary contacts list who already use the app so users can connect with friends and other users from their contacts. The app's "new connections" feature also offers the option to add users in nearby areas. This means your child could potentially connect with – and communicate with – strangers.

**VISIBLE PERSONAL DATA**  
As with any other form of social media, an important feature is that BeReal doesn't share the exact location where a photo was taken. However, BeReal does share the exact location where a photo was taken. It's important to know exactly where your child is when they post. It's also important to know where your child is when they post.

**PUBLIC SHARING**  
As with any social media app, BeReal's public sharing options can be a risk. Parents should be aware of the public sharing options in the app. It's important to know exactly where your child is when they post. It's also important to know where your child is when they post.

**REPUTATIONAL DAMAGE**  
What your child says and does online can have a long-term impact on their reputation. Parents should be aware of the public sharing options in the app. It's important to know exactly where your child is when they post. It's also important to know where your child is when they post.

**Advice for Parents & Carers**

**LIMIT NOTIFICATIONS**  
BeReal offers the option to reduce the number of times your child is notified to take a photo. Parents should be aware of the notification settings in the app. It's important to know exactly where your child is when they post. It's also important to know where your child is when they post.

**KEEP IT AMONG FRIENDS**  
BeReal's public sharing options can be a risk. Parents should be aware of the public sharing options in the app. It's important to know exactly where your child is when they post. It's also important to know where your child is when they post.

**STOP AND THINK**  
BeReal's public sharing options can be a risk. Parents should be aware of the public sharing options in the app. It's important to know exactly where your child is when they post. It's also important to know where your child is when they post.

**CREATE A SAFE PROFILE**  
BeReal's public sharing options can be a risk. Parents should be aware of the public sharing options in the app. It's important to know exactly where your child is when they post. It's also important to know where your child is when they post.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr. Sarah Johnson is a child safety specialist and cybercrime expert who has advised on many cases involving children's online safety. She is also a member of the National Online Safety team.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @nationalonlinesafety NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is accepted for any data of release: 04.02.2022

### What Parents Need to Know about BeReal

BeReal is the latest trending social media app. The concept is that people see others in their authentic day-to-day lives, sharing candid photos without editing or applying filters. Each day at a random time, users are simultaneously notified to take a photo of what they're doing at that exact moment. The two-minute window to submit an image means there's no time to select a particularly glamorous or exciting activity. BeReal shares two pictures: a selfie, and an image of the immediate surroundings. Users can only view and react to their friends' photos once they upload their own.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as strangers, location sharing and visible personal data.

## Celebrating Participation



Have you recently achieved something you are proud of?

Have you recently taken part in a sports team event? Are you a member of a local group? Do you have any new certificates or awards to celebrate?

If so, please send in a picture of you with your celebration to [office@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:office@rivermead.wilts.sch.uk).

## School Support

As we are heading into financially tougher times, we wanted to make you aware of support that is out there for you that we can help with:

Free School Meals: Information for parents about access and benefits of claiming FSM can be found at: [Free school meals - Wiltshire Council](#)

We also have access to the local food bank, so please contact the office if you would like us to obtain some for you.

## Friends of River Mead



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*Halloween Disco*

*The Friends are really excited to announce that we will be hosting a Spook-tacular Disco on the last day of term - Wednesday 19th October!*

*Keep an eye out for booking forms coming out sometime next week.*

***Second-hand uniform** Please send any second hand uniform requests to [rivermeadfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rivermeadfriends@gmail.com) or message via our Friends of River Mead social media pages!*

***Follow us on Instagram** @friendsofrivermead or **join** our **Facebook** group - Friends of River Mead School - for regular updates! **Email** [rivermeadfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rivermeadfriends@gmail.com).*

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Each & EVERY one of you can make a very REAL difference for our children's school if you please read on.....

Please, please click the link below & vote for Friends of Rivermead School to help us secure £500 from ASDA for new playground equipment! You only need to enter your email, but you must click the **Confirm your vote** button in the email sent after voting. If you have more than 1 email address - please use them, we need all the votes we can get!

<https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4345>

You can vote **EVERY 7 DAYS** & the more of us that do so, the more chance we have. We're up against Forest & Sandridge School who are twice the size of River Mead.....we have our work cut out but if we **ALL** put in maximum effort, voting every week (set a reminder!) & telling **ALL our friends & family** as regularly as possible until 31st December, **we know we can do this** 🙌

And don't worry - we'll keep the reminders coming! **Please vote & share for your children & our school!!**

Green Tokens - Vote | Asda

<https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4345>

## School Term & Holiday Dates

School holidays are important to all of us! To help you plan for some family time we have put together the School Term & Holiday Calendar for 2022 - 2023. You can find this by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.themeadtrust.org/news-and-dates/term-dates/>

Teacher Training Days for next academic year 2022/2023 are:

31st October 2022

3rd January 2023

5th June 2023

## Family & Community Learning Service



The poster features a blue background with a large dark blue circle containing the title 'Being a Parent'. Below the title is a white banner with the text 'Suitable for parents of children aged 2-5'. The main text describes a 9-week course run by local parents for local parents, aimed at teaching practical communication skills. A box on the right lists four sessions: Devizes Children's Centre (20th Sept), Little Folly Children's Centre (21st Sept), Canberra Children's Centre (23rd Sept), and an online session via Microsoft Teams (19th Sept). The contact number 0800 970 4669 is at the bottom. Logos for RISE TRUST, Wiltshire Council, and spurgeons are at the bottom.

**Being a Parent**

Suitable for parents of children aged 2-5

A 9-week course run by local parents for local parents.

.....

Learn practical communication skills for everyday life to bring up happy, confident and cooperative children.

.....

Call us on: 0800 970 4669

EMPOWERING PARENTS EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Devizes Children's Centre starts Tuesday 20th September 10am - 12pm

Little Folly Children's Centre Salisbury Starts Wednesday 21st September 10am - 12pm

Canberra Children's Centre Melksham starts Friday 23rd September 10.00am - 12pm

Online session via Microsoft Teams starts 19th September 7pm - 9pm

RISE TRUST

Working in partnership with Wiltshire Council

spurgeons children's charity

## PE timetable

### PE Days

#### Please see changes for Herons & Badgers

On PE days children should come in wearing their PE kit to avoid changing at school.

Otters - we will let you know when they will start!

Dormice & Frogs - Tuesday

Herons & Kestrels - - Wednesday

Badgers & Buzzards - Thursday

Bumble Bees (Beehive) - Monday

Honey Bees / Busy Bees (Beehive)- Friday

## Dates to Remember



### **October**

12th October - Year 3 Stonehenge Trip

18th October - Year 1 Parent Workshop - Phonics Screen Check

19th October - Otters Parent Workshop - Phonics

19th October - Friends Halloween Disco

19th October - Last Day of Term

31st October - TD Day

### **November**

1st November - Term 2 Begins

7th November - Year 1 Noah's Ark

24th November - School Photo's

### **December**

8th December - Christmas Jumper Day

## What's on

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*School admissions window open for secondary and primary school places*

*Wiltshire residents can now apply for secondary and primary school places for September 2023 entry.*

Applications can be submitted online on our [website](#) until the national deadlines of 31 October 2022 for secondary schools and 15 January 2023 for primary schools and infant to junior.

The National Offer Day for school places for applications received before the published deadlines are 1 March 2023 for secondary and 19 April 2023 for primary and junior. Applicants will be able to log back into the online system on the National Offer Day to view the outcome of their application

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The National Trust believes that everyone needs nature, so for a limited time they're offering you a free visit\* to a place they care for this autumn. Where will your escape take you?

\* up to two adults and two children. If you're already a member, you can use your free visit to bring along a friend or family member.

Visit the National Trust website for more information and to claim your free pass:  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/escape-into-autumn>

# Escape into autumn

